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Center for International Education

University of New Hampshire

CIE Newsletter

Spring 2005

New UNH Fellowship Office launched to provide increased opportunities for outstanding students

Over the years, a number of UNH students have competed for fellowships through highly selective national programs such as those sponsored by Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright, National Security Education Program (NSEP), and Carnegie Junior Fellows. Last year, five from UNH won prestigious Fulbright grants to spend the current academic year abroad-- in Germany, Namibia, Korea and Nepal. Another student returned this year from six months of NSEP-funded study in Russia.

To encourage and enable more of our outstanding students to take their academic pursuits to a challenging new level, Academic Affairs recently established a UNH Fellowship Office under the administrative umbrella of the Honors Program. Dr. Robert Stiefel serves as the part-time coordinator for the new office, combining new program recruiting and advising efforts with those already conducted by Sheila McCurdy in the Center for International Education. Both enjoy part-time administrative support from graduate student Kristin Hultsman.

Dr. Stiefel holds a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures from Harvard University and has been the recipient of travel and study/research grants from the Lilly Foundation, the Ford Foundation and Harvard University. He has taught and served as a student advisor in the UNH History, Humanities



In January, President Hart hosted a Scholars' Candlelight Buffet for all students applying for national fellowships. Hart is joined here by seniors Nicholas Park (studio arts) and Ben Coles (political science).

and Honors programs since 1992. The UNH Fellowship Office is located on the second floor of Hood House. Dr. Stiefel can best be reached via e-mail at robert.stiefel@unh.edu.

From the director:

Reaching out to former Eastern Bloc nations is goal of Department of Defense grant program at UNH

While CIE is best known for study abroad programs and the international affairs dual major, we also bring international education to local, regional, and international audiences. For over 20 years, CIE has sponsored the New Hampshire International Seminar, providing a setting for distinguished speakers from around the world and from our own faculty to interact with students, faculty, and community members. And, for the last three years, UNH has hosted delegations from

emerging democracies in a program focused on emergency preparedness, highlighting how our emergency systems function in an open democracy. High-level emergency planning and response professionals from Tajikistan, Georgia, Belarus, Macedonia, Russia, and Latvia have come to New Hampshire to interact with their counterparts in state and local governments as well as with non-governmental organizations. Our visitors learn how hospitals, fire departments, state and federal agencies, and volunteer

organizations prepare for and respond to natural and human-induced disasters. They also see how legal, political, and social structures frame our actions. UNH faculty and staff provide seminars on federalism, civilian control of the military, handling hazardous materials, among other topics.

The delegates are especially intrigued with the spirited panel discussion on disasters, the media, and the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We
(DOD GRANT, continued on page 7)

Putting South Africa on the study abroad map

by Nancy Clarke, CIE Study Abroad Advisor, and Marina Markot, CIE Coordinator of Student Programs

A decade after the fall of apartheid and the rise of a democracy for all South Africans, more and more UNH students are choosing South Africa as their study abroad destination, and justly so. It is a fascinating country to study, and to study in. Approximately twice the size of Texas, South Africa has an economy that produces nearly two-thirds of the aggregate wealth of the remaining sub-Saharan African countries, thus making it a world power in a third-world setting.

A mix of African, European and Asian descendants, South Africans form a truly multicultural society, with 11 national languages and many ethnic groups. Often described as “a world in one country,” South Africa boasts diverse

geographical treasures, ranging from the Kalahari desert to the lush and sultry valleys of KwaZulu-Natal, from the snow-capped Drakensberg Mountains to the surfer’s paradise of Port Elizabeth, just to name a few. Vibrant, diverse cities are thriving within South Africa. The largest city in the north, Johannesburg, is South Africa’s lucrative mining and manufacturing base. Pretoria, a small city nearby, is the country’s administrative capital. Cape Town, on the southwest tip, is its legislative capital and bears traces of the Dutch roots of its early settlers. Durban, on the Indian Ocean, is home of the proud Zulu nation and continues to be the city of choice for the country’s indigenous Indian population. Once out

of the cities, the other “side” of South Africa becomes apparent, with its vast land and widespread poverty.

At a crossroads between the developed and developing worlds, South Africa brings its diverse economy and strong institutions to bear on challenges of poor health, poverty and lingering inequalities. Through a large and sophisticated research and development system, both in the higher education and business sectors, the country spends more than 5 billion a year, much of it aimed at solving pressing socio-economic and industrial needs.

In addition to its ten universities of technology, South Africa’s public higher (SOUTH AFRICA, continued on page 7)

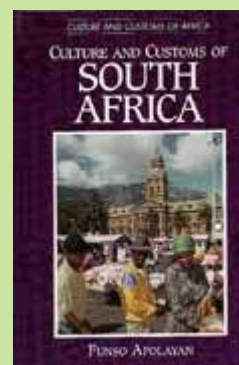
The complexities of South Africa

by Nell Cox '06

Arriving in Cape Town, I’m not sure what I was expecting, and the first couple of days it almost felt as though I wasn’t that far away from home. The Africa that I had dreamt about seemed nothing like this pseudo-European country that I was in. There were coffee shops and health food stores, white and black people dressed in nicer clothes than I had ever owned, and within my first two days I managed to find the best place for an afternoon milkshake. The Sahara Desert and women walking around with baskets on their heads seemed oceans away. However, it wasn’t until the jet lag wore off and I moved into my apartment that I began to see the real South Africa-- a place drastically different from the American society that I grew up in.

The history of South Africa dominates the mood of Cape Town and the various types of people in it. The complexities that exist between the rich and the poor are intricate and only understandable through a great deal of patience and courage to ask questions, while also knowing when to take a step back and simply observe. During my stay here, I have had the opportunity to live in a residential neighborhood and also to travel outside of the city two times a week and teach art classes in the neighboring townships. It is through that experience that I am able to see the true aftermath of apartheid and the people that were so drastically affected by the decades of brutal oppression.

Cape Town has been my home for the past three months and will continue to be so for the next two. I have explored different parts of Africa and seen the vast deserts and rural villages in the middle of Botswana and Zambia. However, it is South Africa that I have explored the most; not only Table Mountain and the pristine beaches, but the people and the dynamics that keep this country running. It has been a truly inspiring challenge that I hope more students will take on during their college education.



*Funso Alfolayan, UNH associate professor of history, recently completed his book, **Culture and Customs of South Africa** (Greenwood Press, 2004), a useful guide for those interested in traveling to the country.*



Nell Cox (far right) with fellow American students. (Notice the elephant in the background.)

Students choose a Swiss-style hospitality education

This semester, four UNH students from the Whittemore School of Business and Economics (WSBE) are participating in a Swiss program which is designed to enhance UNH course work in the hospitality field. WSBE's new partnership with the



UNH hospitality students and friends out for an evening in Gruyère, Switzerland

Glion Institute of Higher Education in Glion, Switzerland, enables UNH students to take courses in tourism and hospitality while gaining life experience and a cultural perspective that are especially valuable to practitioners in the hospitality industry. Though classes are in English, courses in French, Spanish and German are also available.

Participating sophomores Nora Callahan, Katie Cowles, Bradi Lenentine and Sarah Smith have made a number of interesting discoveries since their arrival in Glion. For example, the group was surprised to learn that there is not as much homework as in the U.S., but this means the midterms and finals count for almost all of the student's grade. In a country world-renowned for its hospitality training, they find student dress rather formal -- and have actually gotten used to wearing suits! Living quarters were an exceptionally pleasant surprise. "Dorm rooms are AMAZING!" the women exclaim. "You have your own bathrooms and they get cleaned and the sheets get changed!"

Concerning their classmates, the four report that there is a great deal of interest in world affairs in Switzerland. "Many students here know more about our country than we do," they (GLION, continued on page 8)

Shippee-Rice enjoying Fulbright experience in Bulgaria

by Raelene Shippee-Rice, Associate Professor of Nursing

In 2004, Raelene Shippee-Rice, UNH associate professor of nursing, was named Fulbright Scholar to Bulgaria. She has spent spring semester teaching and conducting research at the New Bulgarian University in Sofia and providing seminars for nurses at the university's Alexandrovska Hospital.

Bulgaria is a fascinating place to be at the current time as it struggles to continue economic and social development to meet the requirements for joining the European Union, expected in 2007. As a result many of the country's resources are targeted to the development and growth of business and industry. Pensions for older adults are very low, supports for social services are minimal, and there are few governmental or non-governmental agencies targeting the care of vulnerable populations or the integration of minority populations, especially the Roma. Families often live in small multigenerational apartments with grandparents caring for young children while the parents work. Thus Bulgaria is an emerging new economic state. The country prides itself on its history as an ancient civilization dating back to 9th and 10th century BC. The

current nation state was created in 1992 and faces many of the economic and social challenges resulting from its most recent history as a Soviet republic.

Recent news reports suggest that Bulgaria is not making sufficient progress in the necessary social reforms required by the European Union, especially in the areas of court reform, care for vulnerable populations, and minority inclusion. There was a near crisis of the government earlier this spring that was averted when new coalitions were formed to maintain the current majority. National elections are scheduled for late June and may have a significant impact on the rate of reform. I am eager to hear the campaign rhetoric for the national elections and be here when the results are announced. There is much that needs to be done if Bulgaria is to be successful in its goal for better economic and living

conditions for its people.

My Fulbright experience in Bulgaria involves conducting seminars with nurses at the major university hospital, Alexandrovska Hospital, teaching a graduate family theory course at one of (BULGARIA, continued on page 8)

Bulgaria is a small country about the size of Ohio with a varied topography ranging from 10,000 foot peaks to rich agricultural plains to the Black Sea. The overall population is approximately 8 million. Adults over the age of 60 constitute approximately 17% of the population primarily due to emigration of young people and a low birth rate. It has a rapidly growing tourist industry and is a prime site for real estate development.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AT WORK

Catholic students, faculty, staff do work in Honduras

by Bernadette Komonchuk, UNH Professor Emerita of Spanish

In 1998 Hurricane Mitch devastated Honduras, already one of the poorest countries of Central America. In 2000 Father Dan St. Laurent, Catholic chaplain to the university, started taking interested UNH students to the province of Olancho, Honduras, where he had previously been assigned for two years to promote ties of friendship with the people of San Francisco de la Paz and neighboring towns. Students raised money to defray the cost of their flight through a raffle and bake sales.

The average yearly salary of the people in this largely agricultural area is \$600 and many villages have no electricity and have very primitive and undependable water supplies. The hurricane breached the dam that supplied the area with water, greatly reducing the supply and causing great hardship.



"Laboring in God's vineyard"-- or, in this case, orchard!"

Several village leaders have been struggling under difficult circumstances to improve their situation and through collaborative efforts with students several projects have been undertaken. The first year students worked with village leaders to plant an orchard of various kinds of fruit trees in an effort, both to improve the nutrition of the people and to provide a way for them to earn some revenue at a local market through the sale of excess fruit. Drip irrigation kits were installed to help the orchard thrive with minimal water.

This year marked the fifth year in a row that UNH students have returned to the same area to continue their work over spring break. The orchard planted the first year is already bearing fruit and other trees planted for reforestation are flourishing. Students who went this year, some for the second and third time, were Andrew Lawson, Caitlyn Sweeney, Alexandra Varga, Jessica Wholey, Nicole Valentine, Mark Joseph, Mark Santos and Jeffrey Paveglio. Inspired by the example of the students, two parishioners of St. Thomas More Church, David Holmes, former Director of Career Planning and Placement at UNH and former Peace Corps volunteer, and



UNH student Mark Joseph with new Honduran friend

(HONDURAS, continued on page 7)

Thailand a destination for Students Without Borders

Submitted by Timothy Puls, President of Students Without Borders

Five students from the UNH College of Engineering and Physical Sciences recently put their engineering knowledge to work by installing a new irrigation system in Santisuk, a small village in northern Thailand. The students were part of team led by Students Without Borders, associated with Engineers Without Borders (EWB), a humanitarian organization that provides sustainable engineering solutions to needy communities worldwide. The UNH students included senior class members Alexander Unrein, of Lee, N.H., Patrick Santosa, of Manchester, N.H., Brett Schlanger, of Dunmore, PA., Ben Nichols, of South Sutton, N.H. and Vincent Puleo, a recent UNH graduate and resident of Dover, N.H. UNH is one of several universities with active EWB student chapters.

Project Background: Three decades ago, portions of the nomadic Lahu Shele tribe settled in Santisuk after escaping civil unrest in nearby Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. Having survived for generations as hunters and gatherers, they soon hunted out all local game and then turned to slash and burn agriculture, eventually destroying much of the area's topsoil, along with the ability to grow crops. Moreover, the mismanagement of resources resulted in unstable water supplies for crops and drinking water, which was tainted with bacteria and caused widespread stomach ailments.

The Santisuk project, under the guidance of EWB-USA volunteer Dick Herring, a chemical engineer and past executive (STUDENTS WITHOUT BORDERS, continued on page 5)

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AT WORK

UNH Model United Nations organization in NY City

Model United Nations is an organization comprising students from various majors who share an interest in global issues. Students from around the world develop a better understanding of the structure and function of the UN, while building skills in diplomacy and leadership. In March, sixteen students from the UNH Model UN organization joined more than 3,200 other students at the annual conference held at the UN building in New York City. The students from UNH represented the country of Niger and its positions on a variety of global issues, particularly debt relief and HIV prevention.

One of the highlights of the conference was a meeting with the Niger Ambassador to the United Nations (see photo). The ambassador graciously invited UNH students to the Niger consulate, where he answered a series of questions about his work with the United Nations. Because the ambassador was more comfortable speaking French than English, UNH student Eliza Chon, dual major in international affairs and French, demonstrated the importance of foreign language proficiency and provided simultaneous translation for her fellow students.

Throughout the week, the students spent



Sixteen students from UNH attended the Model UN Conference in New York City in March. Above, students pose with the UN ambassador from Niger.

hours caucusing in committees ranging from the World Health Organization and the World Conservation Union, to the General Assembly and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States. Through intense debate and negotiation they were able to pass resolutions and successfully represent Niger. "We came back from New York with improved research and problem solving skills, as well as a better understanding of contemporary global issues," says Elizabeth Kyriacou. "It was an amazing and eye-opening experience to be able to work with such a diverse group of students who share our interest in international affairs."

Sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the Student Activity Fee Committee (SAFC), and the Center for International Education (CIE), the Model UN Club at UNH found the conference to be a unique opportunity to apply their academic interests in international affairs and political science in a practical setting -- an experience that will serve them well in the future.



Officers of the UNH Chapter of Students Without Borders, l. to r: Whitney Blanchard, Mike Unger, Timothy Puls and James McMahon

(STUDENTS WITHOUT BORDERS, continued from page 4) director of the organization, was adopted in 2003. The team first tackled the drinking water dilemma by installing filters and setting aside a leach field. Wastewater was separated from drinking water, the bacteria eliminated and the health issues subsided. During the monsoon season, however, rains overloaded the spring box that supplied drinking water, clogging it with silt and debris. The students built a new spring box, installing drainage berms, reinforced concrete walls, and a corrugated roof to protect it from debris.

In January 2005, the UNH students went to Santisuk to install a new irrigation canal that can withstand the pressures of heavy rains, which overwhelmed the old system and caused massive waste. They also instituted a waste collection system to help maintain groundwater purity.

According to Students Without Borders participants, there are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in upcoming projects. Check out their website at <http://www.unh.edu/swb> for more information.

Twenty receive scholarships for summer, fall study abroad

The Center for International Education (CIE) is pleased to announce the names of 20 UNH students who have been granted scholarships for spring 2005 study abroad. The winners represent 11 majors from four schools/colleges and study in eight countries. CIE \$500 scholarships are provided this semester by the Craig Abbott Endowment for International Studies, the Robert G. Leblanc Memorial Endowment and the American Institute of Foreign Study (AIFS). Other scholarships awarded competitively through CIE are provided, as noted, by Academic Programs International (API), Butler University, Cultural Experiences Abroad (CEA), Study Australia and the University Study Abroad Consortium (USAC).

A \$500 Abbott scholarship and a \$500 CIE/Butler scholarship were awarded to **Meghann McCluskey**, an English/journalism major from Upton, MA, for study at the University of Bristol in England. Three other Butler scholarships in the amount of \$2000 were awarded to UNH students: **Sarah Gontarz**, a business administration major studying at the University of Limerick in Ireland; **Alyssa Sargent**, a nutritional science major from Lowell, MA, studying at the National University of Ireland in Galway; and **Caitlin McCuster**, an occupational therapy major from Cranston, RI, studying at the University College in Clark, Ireland. Caitlin also received a CIE/AIFS scholarship for \$500. Another Butler scholarship for \$1500 was awarded to **Amy Willenbrock**, an English major from Conway, NH, studying at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

Australia is a popular place for students to go abroad and two organizations from this country provided scholarships for students: Australearn and Study Australia. Those receiving Australearn scholarships were: **Sarah MacAlpine**, a psychology major from Sterling, MA, studying at Bond University, \$1200; **Lauren Tucker**, a business administration major from Falmouth, MA, studying at Bond University, \$1000; **Josh Francis**, a business administration major from Brdgewater, CT, studying at Bond University, \$800; and **Sophie Schneeberger**, a hospitality management major from Everett, MA, studying at James Cook University, \$625. Study Australia provided scholarships for **Tara Lally**, a nutritional science major from Arlington, MA, studying at Bond University, \$750; and **Andrea Snider**,

an occupational therapy major from Milford, NH, \$1000. **Rachel Whitaker** was also able to study in Australia, thanks to a CIEE scholarship in the amount of \$1000. She is a molecular, cellular, developmental biology major, from Hillsboro, NH, studying at the University of Wollongong.

A Gilman scholarship in the amount of \$3000 was awarded to **Derek Angove**, a business major from Hampton, NH, for his studies at CET Business School through Bard College in Hungary.

Two \$500 API scholarships were awarded to students studying in Spain: **Steve Calcavecchia**, a linguistics major from Derry, NH is studying at the University of Seville and **Rachel Harrison**, a business administration major from Acton, MA, is studying at the University of Pablo de Olavide in Seville.

A \$500 CEA scholarship was awarded to both **Emily Stone**, a recreational management major from Jaffrey, NH, studying in Florence, Italy, and also to **Greg Tapscott**, a history major from Pittsfield, NH, studying in Seville, Spain.

USAC awarded a \$500 scholarship to **Theresa Amundsen**, an anthropology major from Hampton Falls, NH, for study at the Puntarenas University of Nevada in Costa Rica. **Hilary Fahey**, a psychology major from Sebago, ME is also studying at the same university in Costa Rica through \$500 in funds from CIE/AIFS.

The Robert G. LeBlanc Memorial Fund provided \$500 for **Cassy Kojak**, an anthropology major from Merrimack, MA, to study at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Jackson Fund established to support international studies

UNH alumni Martha and Bill Jackson recently established the **Martha L. Foley '76 '96G and William S. Jackson '75 Fund for International Studies** to encourage New Hampshire students to study abroad.

Martha, who received her B.A. in French at UNH, spent her junior year in Dijon, France, and considers it one of the best experiences of her life. Bill, a graduate of the UNH Whittemore School, believes that, now more than ever, students must understand and experience other cultures. As a result, the Jacksons' college-aged sons have participated in study programs in Australia and in Spain.

Catherine Fiske, a junior from Brentwood, NH majoring in animal science is the first recipient of the Jackson Scholarship. She spent fall 2004 studying at the University of Leeds in England. In return, Fiske has shared her experiences abroad with other students, participating in CIE's re-entry reception and "Been There, Done That" program for students planning study abroad, and presenting at "Rising Scholars," a program sponsored by the UNH Center for Academic Resources.



Donors Martha and Bill Jackson

Where in the world is ...?

Patricia Hughes '85, the Director of Curriculum Design at the Center for Ethical Leadership (Seattle, Washington), has written a book called, *Gracious Space: A Practical Guide for Working Better Together*.

Camille Curtis '89 Martinez, is studying for her PhD at UMass- Amherst. Her studies focus on environmental conflicts and public discourse in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. She and her husband, José, have three children.

Melissa Wells '91, is assistant professor of social work at UNH. Melissa returned to UNH after several years in northern Minnesota where she completed her Master of Social Work at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Her professional interest is in child protection.

Malinda "Bambi" Hansen '93 Thompson has spent much of the year traveling the world with her husband, Eric. Following a month-long road trip in the US, they flew to Quito, Ecuador. Six months later, they had visited the Galapagos Islands, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and even Antarctica. They are now living in England (where

Eric is from), and Bambi is looking into graduate programs in international education. Currently, both are tour guides for their area of England.

Karen Polak '94, Habitat for Humanity Regional Director for North Africa and Middle East, recently received a proposal of marriage in the form of a message in a bottle! She and her fiancé, Roger Soweid, live in Beirut, Lebanon.

Mollie Wiesenfeld '96 Talmanson is Manager of Product Development for US apparel at Puma International in Boston, MA.

Harold Mendez '96 operates ESTRELLA Management International, talent management for Latin Americans and US Latinos. Although he mainly works with athletes, he is also getting involved with television, movies and music. He says, "It has been a true labor of love and one whose journey has only begun."

Karen Vuto '97 was awarded her MA in Ethics & Social Theory from Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA in October 2004. She wrote her thesis on *Restorative Justice in East Timor*.

Katina Fogle '98 Bentley is a recruiter for EF in Boston, MA. EF is the world's largest private educational organization, with offices in 45 countries.

Meredith Holtan '99, is a research assistant for the Harvard Initiative for Global Health, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Leigh Ann Larkin '04 is pursuing a Master's degree in French Studies at New York University.



Bambi (Hansen) Thompson with a sloth from the Amazon. She described it as "both heavier and dirtier than it looks."

(DOD GRANT, continued from page 1)

additional delegations and to provide more in-depth seminars and workshops in collaboration with the program sponsor, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- Ted Howard
Director, CIE

(SOUTH AFRICA, continued from page 2)

education is supplemented with a vibrant private sector, including small specialist colleges and medium sized universities. South African scholars are involved in varied research projects including the HIV/Aids pandemic, epidemiology of tropical diseases, urban renewal and area-based development, capacity-building and entrepreneurial skills development, outcomes-based education and application of technologies to developing economies, and agricultural and seed research.

UNH currently offers approved programs of study abroad, for a variety of majors, at 21 universities in South Africa. For more information on specific programs, visit the Center for International Education at 223 Hood House.

(HONDURAS, continued from page 4)

Thomas Laue, professor of biochemistry, seeing the enthusiasm and fun students were experiencing, decided to go to Olancho last May with Father St. Laurent, to see if other collaborative projects could be developed. Interest grew and in January, a group of eight parishioners including Gale Carey, professor of animal and nutritional sciences, and Bernadette Komonchak, retired professor of Spanish, also went to further assess ways in which they could work with the citizens of the area.

On April 29 a group of 14 Hondurans from a university in Juticalpa will come to Durham for a week to meet with university and business people to explore other possible ventures. It will give UNH an opportunity to offer the same warmth and generosity that the people of San Francisco de la Paz, Quiscamote and Colonia Emanuel offered our group. The personal bonds of friendship and affection, which have now been established between the people of Durham and San Francisco de la Paz, are becoming stronger each year and it is with enthusiasm that further trips are planned for next year. This people to people experience has put a very personal face on a rich experience that students will carry with them into the wider world when they leave the university.

(GLION, continued from page 3)

note. "Watching the news with the other students is quite an interesting experience, with all the different viewpoints." They also find that their fellow students are rather reserved compared with American students, making the observation that the laughter from the American group at mealtimes tends to make them stand out.

For all the fun they are having, there are still challenges to be faced. "The food at the school is very hard to get used to," they report. "They eat at specific times of the day and you must attend meals at that time or else you get nothing to eat. They only drink water at lunch and dinner." In addition, the closing times of stores are generally earlier there than in the U.S. and everything is closed on Sundays.

The students have had lots of opportunities to travel, visiting Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Spain, France, Belgium, and Luxembourg. They offer some advice to anyone considering the program: "We recommend staying in hostels -- they are cheap and you can meet people your own age to travel around with. Get a Eurail pass and travel as much as possible."

For more information on the Glion Program, contact Professor Raymond Goodman at 862-3304 or via e-mail at raygoodman@aol.com.

(BULGARIA, continued from page 3)

the new private universities, New Bulgarian University, and conducting research on family care of older adults. Alexandrovska Hospital, described as the largest hospital in the Balkans, was built in 1870 and has had little modernization. Some of the recent improvements are a new intensive care unit and a day surgery unit. There is little funding for health care including salaries for health care providers, medication, technology, comfort measures, home care services or public health measures such as preventive care or health promotion. In January, a law to have non-smoking areas in restaurants was instituted; however, few establishments have implemented the law in a way that is non-smoker friendly. There is a limited national health insurance with private insurance through the workplace on the rise. Private specialty hospitals and outpatient clinics are developing rapidly. It is interesting that Bulgaria looks to a private insurance system for funding health care at a time when many in the United States look to a national health system.

The Bulgarians are a warm and friendly people with high tolerance for those who do not speak their language. I have been treated like a guest, not only by colleagues but by acquaintances and even strangers. Most people I meet are eager for me to become familiar with their country and feel welcome here -- and I



Professor Shippee-Rice (left) with a colleague at the gate of Alexandrovska Hospital.

do. I highly recommend to colleagues and students interested in Fulbright to look to Bulgaria. It is a country that is little known by many Americans but has much to offer the inquiring traveler from its rich historical heritage to its current emergence as a developing economy.

Activities abroad through CIE Faculty International Development Travel Grants and Engagement Awards

Each year, the Center for International Education awards competitive grants for faculty international activities from funds provided by the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Below are excerpts from recipients' reports for 2004-2005 travel.



Professor Thein and other conference attendees at the historic museum of Vilanova i la Geltrú, Spain.

May-Win Thein, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, traveled to Spain to attend the 2004 Variable Structure Workshop. Professor Thein's research concerns satellite control. "Not only did we discuss our technical research, but we also had the opportunity to share world views on politics, culture, and current events. All of these discussions were very enlightening and gave me a new perspective of our country's international influence and the accuracy of our international media coverage. I gleaned a significant amount of information in my technical area of research, I was able to initiate and maintain collaboration between international colleagues, and I am much more informed of Spanish history and Spain's various cultures."

Professor Thein is also currently involved in the UNH Students Without Borders program. This year, students were involved in five different projects, including one in a village in Thailand, near the Burmese border, to improve their irrigation system and help with sanitation. The event will be made into a documentary by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and shown on public television. (For more information on this project, see page five of the newsletter.)

Lou Ann Griswold, associate professor of occupational therapy, traveled to Melbourne, Australia, in August to take a class and attend a symposium. "The opportunity to attend the course on the Occupational Therapy Intervention Process Model and the International Assessment of Motor and Process Skills Research Symposium in Australia enabled me to connect with colleagues from other countries, supported my current research activities,

and provided me with information that will support my teaching. I am returning to UNH with new energy for the work ahead of me!"



Professor Witzling in Siena, Italy

Mara Witzling, professor of art history, traveled to Italy last summer to study Italian. "It was hard work! I was in class, (conducted in Italian), for four

and a half hours every day, and there was at least an hour and a half of homework nightly. Being a student again after all these years, at such a basic level, was a humbling experience. It reminded me that in order to learn, one has to have the courage to admit one's ignorance and to accept risk. People ask if I'm fluent yet, and I have to laugh. It takes far more than 4 weeks of study – even daily – to achieve that state! However, I have a far better understanding of the language, and my reading comprehension has been greatly expanded, even in that short amount of time."



Professor Griswold feeding kangaroos in Australia



Professor Chang (right) with conference colleagues in Banjul, Gambia, West Africa.

Grace Chang, assistant professor of French, traveled to Africa last July. "In July I traveled to the West African cities of Banjul and Dakar, the respective capitals of The Gambia and Senegal, and St. Louis, in northern Senegal just south of Mauritania. In Banjul, I attended the fifth conference of the International Society for Oral Literature in Africa, hosted by the University of The Gambia. In addition to addressing issues of collection, storage, transcription, and translation of oral texts, papers examined the movement and cultural adaptations of African oral traditions inside and outside of Africa and relationships between African oral literature and other arts, such as painting, sculpture, weaving, dance, theatre, and cinema. Over the course of five days, scholars, writers, and artists from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas participated in lively and fruitful exchanges, drawing from areas as diverse as art and art history, social and cultural anthropology, ethnomusicology, folklore, translation studies, diaspora studies, and my own fields, namely literature, cinema, women and gender studies, and performance."

Judy Sharkey, assistant professor of education, traveled to Morocco to attend a Fulbright-Hays seminar. "I was especially interested in the Morocco seminar because of my interests in second language/literacy education and feminist movements. The experience offered an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the interrelationship between language, gender and power, and how this dynamic is played out in education and political reforms. The six-week seminar focused on the changing role and status of women in Morocco. Our first week in country was dedicated to intensive Arabic classes in the morning and academic lectures in the afternoon. We then spent three weeks traveling around the country, visiting urban centers as well as rural villages, and meeting academics, activists, artists, politicians, and representatives from the private and public sector. It was an amazing multilingual, multicultural summer and I look forward to sharing my experiences with students and colleagues at UNH. The Moroccan people were wonderful. I had many interesting conversations on the US perceptions of Islam and Muslims, on women's issues and on the upcoming U.S. presidential election. It was also very inspiring to meet other U.S. educators committed to bringing more global perspectives into their classrooms and curricula."



Professor Sharkey at Ait Benhaddou, one of the best preserved kasbahs in the Atlas region of Morocco

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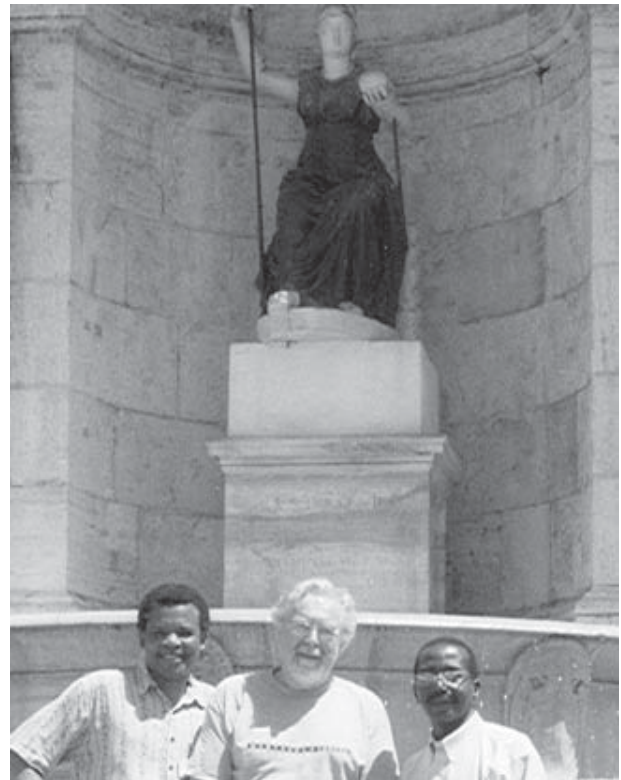
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Funso Afolayan, associate professor of history, traveled to Rome, Italy, attending the XIIIth International Oral History Association Conference (IOHA). "The theme of the conference was Memory and Globalization. I presented a paper titled: 'This House is Falling': Historical Memory and Ethno-Sectarian Violence in Nigeria, 1980-2004." Based mainly on oral sources collected in Nigeria over the last two decades, the paper attempts to understand the nature and causes of ethno-sectarian violence that had become particularly vehement and fatal in Nigeria in the last three decades. Among the key issues I explored in the paper are: the connections between religious politics and secular ideologies, that had made religion a focal point of many inter and intra-ethnic eruptions since 1985; the continuing resilience and significance of historical memory in the generation or otherwise of political violence; the link between the local and the global in the engendering of religious violence, as manifested in the anti-American protests and pro-Al-Qaida riots that left over 200 fatalities following the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001; and the intersection of gender and religious politics, as evidenced in the riots that led to the death of over 300 people in the imbroglio and mayhem that greeted the abortive hosting of the Miss World pageant in Nigeria in 2002. Other issues include the role of the state, religious organizations, ethnic associations, local and international fundamentalist groups, the media, and of civil society, in the generation or otherwise of political violence in Nigeria."



Professor Reardon at the second of the three gorges in the Sichuan province of China.

Chris Reardon, associate professor of political science, traveled to China last May and June. "This was a great opportunity to return to China, to give talks on my book, visit cities in China's interior and conduct research. We arrived in Beijing to beautiful weather. We only had two days, but made the most of it by visiting Tiananmen Square, the Imperial Palace and the Great Wall. The next morning, I gave a talk at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. I got a good reaction, even though my Chinese was a bit rusty. The director felt we were 'old' friends, because we attended Peking University at the same time; his former roommate was a close friend of mine from Columbia. It is a small world! After seeing the clay soldiers in Xian, we flew to Chongqing, which is China's portal to developing the west. In the afternoon, we visited General Stilwell's headquarters, after which we boarded our ship for a three-day cruise down the Yangtze River. The scenery was spectacular. Most importantly, we witnessed the impact of the rising river, which is in the midst of being 'tamed' by the Three-Gorges Dam. Our second river trip was quite different: we took a boat up the Grand Canal from Wuxi to Suzhou in East China. This was not a romantic trip, as our boat captain was weaving in and out of the heavy barge traffic as if he were driving Rt. 128 during rush hour. This was industrial China, with factories on either side of the canal emitting pollution in every form possible. After one month of total immersion, I am sorry to have left China. But to steal a phrase from a better known Asianist, I will return."

Sean Moore, assistant professor of English, traveled to Canada last June to attend a conference. "I attended 'Money, Power, and Prose: an Interdisciplinary Colloquium on the Financial Revolution in the British Isles 1688-1756' at the University of Regina Saskatchewan, Canada. The colloquium featured an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars from the fields of English, history, economics, Portuguese and Brazilian studies, and philosophy, all of whom are engaged in projects related to the founding of the Bank of England in the 1690s and the corollary rise of a British National Debt that was truly public in character. Important figures in the British social history of ideas such as John Locke, George Berkeley, Aphra Behn, Susannah Centlivre, Jonathan Swift, Daniel Defoe, David Hume, and others were discussed for how their writings responded to developments in contemporary political economy and the British culture transformations they created."



Professor Moore (left) with University College Dublin colleague Dr. Ivar McGrath

Recipients of the CIE \$2000 Faculty International Engagement Awards



L. to r. Professor Winslow in Sri Lanka with Shirani Potuher and UNH senior Isobel Madigan and her puppy, Frisco

Deb Winslow, associate professor of anthropology, spent last summer in Sri Lanka where she continued research begun 30 years ago in a village which produces special pottery. "I spent my days going house to house, updating my census and talking with people about recent changes. I was fascinated to find that, for the first time, people are specializing in different steps in the pottery making process: digging clay, processing clay, making pots, and marketing them. Up to now, the village has been socially and economically egalitarian; these new developments open the possibility of growing social and economic differentiation, particularly because the new technologies (pottery presses and clay mixing machines) require far more capital than the old ones did. However, village leaders have been seeking out government funding to buy machines for everyone to have access to. It is too soon to tell if they will be successful in maintaining a level playing field for the next generation or if Walangama will become divided by serious class differences."

Tom Attard, assistant professor of civil engineering, traveled to Japan last summer for a symposium on earthquakes and structure engineering. "Discussions on the use of optimally-placed "smart" and active materials for reducing earthquake damages in actual-size buildings were initiated. I also had the opportunity to visit the largest shaking table test facility in the world. The testing laboratory, which is part of Osaka University and is located outside the city limits, is 61 meters tall, of which 43 meters is composed of supports, actuators, the shaking table, etc. The facility is capable of testing full-scale buildings weighing up to 1,250 tons (16 meters tall) where the table itself weighs at 750 tons. Finally, some 'down-time' enabled me to make other tours as well. I had an opportunity to visit some extraordinary places (Nara, and the Heijo palace Site) that truly captured the history and the culture of the Japanese people. In the evenings, I visited downtown Osaka, where I observed the courteous, polite, and professional nature of this very efficient and soft-spoken culture."



Professor Attard (center) in Osaka City, Japan